

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

### **I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS**

New claims 10-14 are pending in this application. Previous claims 1-9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification specifically at pages 12-18.

No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

### **II. PATENTABILITY OF NEW CLAIMS**

New claims 10-14 are patentable over the art of record. New claim 10, which is the only independent claim, recites a sequence to conduct a business transaction using advice of legal counsel.

Indeed, while previous claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,640,301 to Ng (hereinafter, merely “Ng”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,656 to Zabetian (hereinafter, merely “Zabetian”), in further view of

U.S. Patent No. 6,594,693 to Borwankar et al. (hereinafter, merely “Borwankar”) and Official Notice, the present response obviates these rejections.

#### IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 10, recites *inter alia*:

“A communication contents certification method

inserting first message data, at the communication terminal of the first party, in the email, **the first message data being based on the first comment data provided by the first attorney...**”

Claim 10 recites a sequence of steps in which two parties can utilize the advice of legal counsel to facilitate a transaction. Specifically claim 10 recites that the first and second attorneys add comment data (first and second, respectively) and the parties can add message data. Indeed **the first message data**, inserted at the communication terminal of the first party, is **based on the first comment data provided by the first attorney**. Thus, the parties are able to add content and legal counsel is also able to add content.

Applicant submits that the features of claim 10 are not described or suggested in the art of record.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 10 is patentable.

#### V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same

reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicant maintains that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

### **CONCLUSION**

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

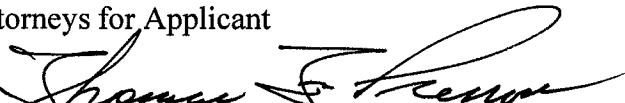
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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